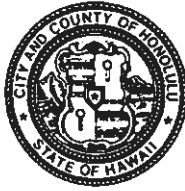


HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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IAN T.T. SANTEE, M.P.A.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

October 5, 2021

The Honorable Tommy Waters  
Chair and Presiding Officer  
and Members  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

I stand in strong support of Resolution 21-234, (Initiating amendments to the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu).

However, I respectfully recommend one change, and urge you to consider modeling future Ocean Safety and Emergency Medical Services Departments with command and control structures utilizing a Commission. This would mirror existing Honolulu Fire Department (City Charter, Chapter 10), and Honolulu Police Department (Chapter 16) command and control structures. This would ensure that some oversight rests with a body of commissioners, and not a single political appointee.

Ocean Safety thanks Councilmember Heidi Tsuneyoshi for her unwavering commitment to public safety, and the Honolulu City Council for its leadership on this important issue. We agree with the Resolution: let the community decide.

On an island of 600 square miles, more than a million residents, and an active visitor industry marketing our beaches, a separate Ocean Safety Department makes fiscal, administrative, and public safety sense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J T", written in a cursive style.

John Kamalei Titchen, J.D.  
Chief of Ocean Safety

[john.titchen@honolulu.gov](mailto:john.titchen@honolulu.gov)

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